

## **Eastern School Board**

*May 24, 2005*

### **1. OPENING**

A special meeting of the Eastern School Board took place on Tuesday, May 24, 2005, in the District Conference Centre, Strawberry Marsh Road, St. John's. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by the Chair, Bruce Peckford.

Members present: Bruce Peckford, Chair  
Danny Button  
Ron Ellsworth *joined at 8:30 pm*  
Joan Marie Gatherall  
Angus Gilbert  
Cyril Hayden *left at 7:00 p.m.*  
Jim Hearn  
Mel Hong  
Joe Keating  
Rick Martin  
Vi Parsons  
Brendan White

Absent with regrets: Earl Elliott

Also in attendance: Dr. Bruce Sheppard, Director of Education  
Mr. Richard Harvey, Assistant Director, Personnel  
Mr. Eric Snow, Assistant Director, Finance & Administration  
Dr. Albert Trask, Assistant Director, Rural Issues  
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive Assistant

The Chair advised the Board that the requested meeting with the Minister will take place next week. As agreed, the topics for discussion at this meeting would be the autonomy of the Board and staff contracts. It was the consensus of the Board that the Director of Education would attend this meeting. The exact time of the meeting will be communicated to the Executive when it is set by the Minister's office.

### **2. NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

The Chair advised that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss NLSBA. The Chair reviewed the background of the issue. .

2(i) **Nomination for NLSBA President** - Deadline May 25. It was noted that the President of NLSBA will be voted at AGM from those nominated either in advance or from the

floor. It was suggested that any member interested in this position should fill out the form and submit by the deadline.

- 2(iv) **Review Constitution.** This item was moved up on the agenda. Concern was raised over changes in the draft Constitution Eastern School Board had approved as a framework of the guiding principles to move forward with an NLSBA. There was major concern over the fee structure proposed in the Constitution and the process for amendments to the Constitution. It was agreed that ESB would accept going forward if the Constitution and the budget are decisions of this board. ESB was not willing to allow items related to its budget to be decided by an outside body or any in-kind contribution must not result in direct costs to ESB.

**Motion:** Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Joe Keating, that ESB will proceed on the basis that each board will have supremacy over the constitution and budget and this will be enshrined in the constitution. This will be brought to the Executive Director of NLSBA advising that this must be agreed to up front for ESB to go forward to the AGM. Carried unanimously.

It was suggested that any suggestions/concerns from Trustees regarding the Constitution would be forwarded to Office of the Director, to be given to the delegates to bring forward. Since modifications to the Constitution will be considered at the AGM, the Board requests that NLSBA provide clarification on the procedure for adopting and/or changing the Constitution prior to the AGM.

- 2(ii) **Voting Delegates.** The Chair advised that he is not available to attend AGM in Gander. Therefore he had asked Mr. Keating, the Vice-Chair to attend in his place. It was noted that ESD would have 4 voting delegates, plus the Chair. Trustees interested in attending the AGM as a voting delegate were identified. In a draw, as agreed, the following trustees were selected as delegates to attend the AGM of NLSBA: Brendan White, Danny Button, Cyril Hayden, Earl Elliott. Alternates selected were Jim Hearn and second alternate Joan Marie Gatherall.

2(iii) **Panels**

- a. Expectations & Realities
- b. Enhanced Student Learning or School Operations from Reorganization

Dr. Sheppard advised that there are two panels planned for dealing with the above topics. It was agreed that Joe Keating would represent Eastern School District on the *Expectations and Realities* panel.

There was discussion held on the second topic. It was agreed that the Director would make a recommendation to NLSBA, prior to the AGM, for a change of topic. Also Dr. Sheppard was asked to advise NLSBA of the omission of the awards for Trustees and educators section from the program.

- 2(iv) **Review of Constitution.** This item was covered earlier in the meeting.
- 2(v) **Draft Audit Statements.** Concern was expressed over the deficit being carried by NLSBA and the liability of Boards in this regard was questioned. It was felt that, at this time, expenditure control is necessary to ensure investments are secured.

Audited statements will be presented at the AGM.

- 2(vi) **Budget Proposal.** Concern was expressed over the late arrival of the final budget proposal, no audited statements provided, budget not reflecting the identified priorities of Eastern School Board, namely advocacy and trustee professional development.

It was noted that \$70,000 was identified as the maximum contribution ESD would support NLSBA on a go-forward basis. There was no acceptance of contribution scale that was dependent upon student population.

It was noted that Eastern School Board has authorized only \$20,000 to be paid to NLSBA this year. This amount has already been released to NLSBA. No other funds have been approved, and there is no commitment to pay \$70,000 for 2004-05. ESB has not yet agreed to participate in NLSBA.

It was also noted that there was no salary breakdown provided.

It was noted that the formula used in the budget sees an increase over time for in kind contribution of ESD. ESB is not willing to increase its costs, either financial contribution or in-kind contribution.

**Motion:** Moved by Joan Marie Gatherall, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that ESD reject the NLSBA budget presented. ESB has made a commitment to go forward with an NLSBA, with a maximum contribution of \$70,000 per year, as long as sufficient funding is provided for advocacy of educational issues and professional development for trustees and both are clearly and adequately identified in the budget. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Peckford thanked the Director for his help and support to the Chair over the meetings with NLSBA. Secondly, he offered his apology for his response to trustee Button at the last meeting.

Condolences on behalf of the Board were extended to Dr. Trask on the recent passing of his mother.

### 3. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm. on a motion by Ron Ellsworth.